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of the world. Possessed of almost autocratic power, he is nevertheless one of the most progressive of monarchs. He realizes the immense responsibility of Japan in the east, and looks forward to a brilliant future for his country in the field of world politics.

Mr. Morris has given us in his volume a most entertaining and valuable review of the work of the great statesmen of our rising far eastern neighbor.

LAURA BELL.

Philadelphia.

Ryan, J. A. A Living Wage: Its Ethical and Economic Aspects. Pp. 346. Price, \$1.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1906.

The thesis which Professor Ryan seeks to maintain in his recent volume, which is written distinctly from the Catholic point of view, is that every man has a natural right to a living wage. To prove the existence of natural rights it is declared "logically sufficient to show that because of his intrinsic dignity a person is morally privileged to pursue self-perfection, and his fellows are morally restrained from hindering his exercise of the privilege." After learning that natural rights, at least the one to a living wage, are based on ethical laws, one is surprised to learn that they "may be regarded as independent both of his own duties and the duties which these rights occasion in his fellows."

By implication at least, Professor Ryan divides natural rights into primary and derived. In the latter category he classes the right to a living wage, and declares that it is deduced from the "right to subsist upon the bounty of the earth." His statement that the right is "measured and determined by existing social and industrial conditions" is not quite clear, unless it means that the living wage must be gauged by these conditions. In any society the content of the living wage is the right to life, liberty, property, a livelihood in keeping with the dignity of a human being, marriage, religious worship, and intellectual and moral education. By calculations based on the cost of living the author concludes that, outside of agriculture, the living wage cannot, under present conditions, be less than \$600 a year. He also presents Mr. Robert Hunter's statistics to show that sixty per cent of the laborers are underpaid.

About one-fourth of the book is devoted to the obligations corresponding to the right. The first is that of the employer to pay a living wage. Those who cannot are under no obligation to do so, but the laborer's right is superior to that of the employer to enjoy superfluous goods and of the capitalist to exact interest. On his side the laborer is "not only not obliged to abstain from or indefinitely postpone marriage, or to limit the number of his offspring, but is under obligation to do the very opposite." However, he is under obligation to reduce his drink bill. The obligation of the state is to see that the employer pays a living wage.

It will hardly be unfair to say that Professor Ryan's book is neither individualistic nor socialistic in the ordinary sense of either term, nor does it strike a middle ground. It is in a measure socialistic in calling upon the

state to see that a living wage is paid, but extremely individualistic in claiming this right for every laborer and basing this right, not upon any consideration of the social good, but upon the personal dignity of the human being. No distinction is made between the efficient and the inefficient, the social and the anti-social. The implication, then, is that every laborer is to receive enough to support a family according to a certain standard of living and is under obligation to contract matrimony—a conclusion which many criminologists and sociologists will not accept. When the general trend of thought is toward social action to secure certain ends confessed by most people to be desirable, it is at least refreshing to read a book proposing to accomplish the same result with a real human being as the starting point and the end. The chief difference seems to be that Professor Ryan's plan would require a higher standard of righteousness even than collectivism.

DAVID Y. THOMAS.

University of Florida.

Train, Arthur. The Prisoner at the Bar. Pp. xiv, 349. Price, \$2. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1906.

It is not too much to say that this volume is easily one of the most important books on penology of the last decade. The author is unusually well qualified through his experience as assistant district attorney in New York City under Mr. Jerome. He has been most active in the prosecution of criminal cases. He possesses, moreover, decided literary ability, and some of his shorter stories have been very favorably received. Mr. Train writes, therefore, in a very interesting style, and takes the opportunity to enliven the narrative by any number of stories drawn from his own experience.

What Mr. Train proposes to do in this book is, as suggested in the subtitle, to "Throw Side Lights on the Administration of Criminal Justice." This he has succeeded in doing. No one can read this book without realizing the extent to which juries and lawyers are human institutions, and therefore subject to all the influences which control other men. The advantages and difficulties of the jury, for instance, are very plainly set forth. One sympathizes with the difficulties involved in securing fair administration of justice, while at the same time he sees more clearly that certain very necessary changes must be made.

The table of contents shows very well what is contained in the volume. What is Crime? Who are the Real Criminals? The Arrest. The Police Court. The Trial of Misdemeanors. The Grand Jury. The Law's Delays. Red Tape. The Trial of Felonies. The Judge. The Jury. The Witness. The Verdict. The Sentence. Women in the Courts. Tricks of the Trade. What Fosters Crime?

One of the best attributes of the author is his sanity and fair mindedness. He believes that, with rare exceptions, the criminal is but an ordinary man and should be treated as such. He shows how, through our general disregard of law, thousands of those who are really criminals are not arrested